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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/771,366	01/25/2001	Dirk Basting	LMPY-9220	6443

7590 10/06/2003
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EXAMINER

ZAHN, JEFFREY N

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2828

DATE MAILED: 10/06/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application N .

09/771,366

Applicant(s)

BASTING ET AL.

Examin r

Jeffrey N Zahn

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-42 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-42 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.


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Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 6,7. 6) ☐ Other: .

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The claims are vague/unclear because the Applicant has not claimed the required structure and structural cooperative relationships as related to the 1) line-narrowing module, 2) the beam expander and 3) the reflection grating. In addition theses Claims need to clearly establish how items 1-3 stated above interrelate within the resonator to form the excimer laser claimed.

It is recommended that the Applicant amend the claims to more closely represent the embodiments of Figures 1-8. After careful review of the Applicant's other pending Applications and Patents, it appears that the novelty of this Application is drawn to an Excimer Laser, as claimed, that includes a "line-narrowing module" with the other claimed elements. The Applicant is advised to claim the "line-narrowing module" as disclosed together with all the structural detail to clearly establish to one of ordinary skill in the art the metes and bounds of the claimed invention.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

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A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by

Stamm et al. (US6490306)

The applied reference has a common inventor with the instant application.

Based upon the earlier effective U.S. filing date of the reference, it constitutes prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). This rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) might be overcome either by a showing under 37 CFR 1.132 that any invention disclosed but not claimed in the reference was derived from the inventor of this application and is thus not the invention "by another," or by an appropriate showing under 37 CFR 1.131.

Stamm et al. discloses an excimer laser comprising:

a discharge chamber (abstract) filled with a gas mixture including molecular fluorine (abstract);

a plurality of electrodes within the discharge chamber (abstract) connected to a pulsed discharge circuit for energizing the gas mixture; and

a resonator (abstract) for generating a laser beam including a pair of resonator reflector surfaces, the discharge chamber and a line-narrowing module,

wherein the line-narrowing module (Fig. 3c) includes:

a beam expander (64) including one or more optical elements for expanding the beam and reducing a divergence of the beam; and

a reflection grating (60) coupled with a heat sink, said grating for receiving the expanded beam and dispersing the beam to reduce a bandwidth of the beam that remains within an acceptance angle of the resonator upon dispersion by the grating, said heat sink for removing heat caused by beam absorption. (Fig. 3c)

Regarding Claims 2-3,18,20,21,33-39, in addition, Stamm et al. discloses a rotatable interferometric device, (Fig. 3b) beam expander with prism (66), and a sealed enclosure (23) including an inert gas and outlet.(inherent feature of enclosure to provide output).

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Kleinschmidt (US 2002/0057723 A1); Aab et al. (US 2002/0141471 A1) Albrecht et al. (US 2003/0016708 A1); Kleinschmidt et al. (US 6421365); Stamm et al. (US 6490306); Kleinschmidt et al. (US 6516012); Kleinschmidt et al. (US 6553050); Kleinschmidt et al. (US 6567451); and Kleinschmidt et al. (US 6603789).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jeffrey N Zahn whose telephone number is 703-305-3443. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 8:30-5:00 pm.

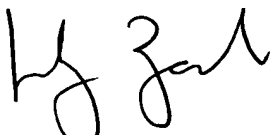
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paul Ip can be reached on 703-308-3098. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.


Jeffrey Zahn

9/10/2003


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